

Proposed Constitutional Amendment for the use of the same selection in Reading Contests will be up for final action at the annual meeting in November. Does the amendment as proposed meet with your approval? If not, send your suggestions to the secretary or your district chairman for consideration at the annual meeting.

Speech Institutes held at Chippewa Falls, Stevens Point, and Madison the past year were attended by approximately 1,000 students. Inquiries and requests for similar Institutes next year have already been received by the secretary. The Board is ready to plan such Institutes for different parts of the State, as far as is financially possible, at the request of at least twenty-five schools. Requests will be handled in the order received. If you are interested, begin to plan. If possible, the one in the North should be held the latter part of October to assure favorable weather.

News Letters. This is your publication. Special items of interest in the development of the forensic activities will contribute to the healthy growth of the Association. Send your suggestions and criticisms to the secretary.

Press Publicity. There has been a most encouraging increase in the amount of publicity in the local press evidenced by the clippings received by the secretary. These will be on exhibit at the State Program. Has your school used your local paper systematically? Collections of these clippings are available for loan to any school that is interested.

Notice to High School Teachers of Speech and Coaches of Forensics and Dramatics. Enclosed with this News Letter you will find a brief statement sent to you by the Department of Speech at the University of Wisconsin. Your cooperation in bringing this notice to the attention of teachers in your school who may be interested will be deeply appreciated.

Dramatic and Speech Institute, June 24-July 6, inclusive. The purpose of this Institute is to offer training in community and school leadership in the art of play production and all of the other arts that are closely bound up with it. The headquarters will be the University High School. High school students are eligible. For further information write to Miss Ethel Rockwell, Chief, Bureau of Dramatic Activities, University Extension Division.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.
Copies available to other than member schools at ten cents each.

ON TO MADISON FOR STATE CONTESTS AND CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America are again sponsoring the state speech programs. The following schedule has been adopted:

May 2—8:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Oratorical and Extemporaneous Reading Contests—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room will be decided by lot.

May 3—Friday morning—There will be an opportunity to see the Legislature in session.

May 3—2:30 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.

May 3—3:30 p. m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Stations WHA and WLBL.

May 3—8:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Declamatory Contests—Humorous and Non-humorous—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room will be decided by lot.

May 4—8:00 a. m.—Breakfast Conference—Memorial Union—Supt. F. C. Bray, Chairman of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, presiding. The contestants will be the guests of the Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America. Others, 45c per plate. Reservations should be made with the Secretary of the Forensic Association, Almere L. Scott, University Extension Division, Madison, Wisconsin.

Greetings—Edwin Wilkie, President, University Forensic Board, and Professor Gladys Borchers, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin.

Marimba Solos—Miss Dorothy Heick, with Miss Margaret Otterson accompanying.

Greetings—R. W. Bardwell, Superintendent of Schools, Madison, and Chris L. Christensen, Dean, Agricultural College.

Group Reading—Professor Gertrude Johnson and Speech Students.

Current Educational Problems—George P. Hambrecht, Director, Wisconsin State Board of Vocational Education.

May 4—11:00 a. m.—Broadcast by the state champions over Stations WHA and WLBL.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

F. C. BRAY, Chairman
Fort Atkinson
ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary
Univ. Extension Div., Madison
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Adviser in Dramatics.

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WHITEWATER DISTRICT
F. C. Bray, Fort Atkinson

MESSAGE FROM EDWIN WILKIE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
FORENSIC BOARD, TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE STATE
HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC CONTEST

The Forensic Board of the University of Wisconsin welcomes you to our college campus. We wish you a most pleasant week-end in our Capital City and hope that in the near future some of you at least will be active in forensics here at Wisconsin.

You may be interested, as prospective college students, in our speech program. At Wisconsin freshmen may win awards in debate, oratory, declamation, and extemporaneous speaking. Participation in varsity intercollegiate debate is deemed quite an honor as is also participation in the Frankfurter and Peace Oratorical Contests and in the Delta Sigma Rho speech tournament.

There are on our campus a number of speech societies which supplement in a very vital way the regularly scheduled university contests. The annual intersociety debate and oratorical contests bring to a climax the friendly rivalry of such organizations as Hesperia, Athena, Pythia, and Castalia.

As a member of one of these societies and as a participant in intercollegiate debate, I can say that my four years in the University have been the more enjoyable and the more productive through my participation in forensic work. My personal experience, therefore, leads me to encourage those of you who contemplate attending college to maintain and cultivate your interest in speech activities.

DEBATING FOR ALL

From the Address by Curtis Merriman, Professor of Education, at the
Conference Breakfast on Debating.

Public education is designed to build a ladder of learning from the kindergarten to the graduate school of the university. Opportunity to climb this ladder is open to every child in the state. Some of our young people will go to the top of the ladder; others can not or will not go to the top. Some people say that the only means of reaching the top is by means of the old classical mathematical formula assisted by English, Science, and History. Others say we must use the vocational aids of all kinds. But it is to be noted that all of these aids to climbing are quite personal in their character. To-day we live in a world of people with whom we must live, work, and play. We need their clear thinking just as they need ours. But what good is the clear thinking if it is not put into forceful expression? I know of no better means of insuring both clear thinking and forceful expression than debating. It calls for a clear statement of the problem, adequate collection and analysis of data, valid conclusions, and finally convincing modes of expression. Such training will supplement the social and political relations with their fellows. The debating technique can be used in all subjects. The topics can be thought of as problems. The information and data can be assembled to show the pros and cons of certain assumptions. The balancing of the arguments and final concluding constitute invaluable experience in all subjects. Therefore, since debating training can be so helpful both in subject study and in life situations, I am "Resolved in favor of debating for all."

EDUCATION VITALIZED THROUGH DRAMATICS

Kenneth Little, Assistant Professor of Education,
University Extension Division.

It has been a pleasure for me to be here to enjoy these splendid dramatic performances and it is a privilege to award honors to the various cast members and to their directors who have so ably distinguished themselves tonight. The sterling quality of each of these plays pays high tribute to the dramatic talents of each participant and to the resourcefulness and ingenuity of each director. Each play represents hours and hours of hard, tedious work; the performances have shown excellence as a result.

On another sector of the University campus tonight another championship contest is being waged. Highly trained basketball teams are vying for statewide honors. The publicity usually given to events of the athletic world in the school tend, for some uncertain reason, to overshadow the publicity given to equally valuable activities; but, let us pause for a moment to see whether we may draw a parallel between the educational values of basketball and dramatics.

Well coached basketball players are fine physical specimens, who have developed qualities of ruggedness and endurance. Expertly trained dramatic players are well poised, interesting personalities who have developed qualities of imagination and originality. A fine basketball player develops the techniques and skills of dribbling, passing, shooting baskets, and becomes a master of the strategy of the game. A fine actor develops the skills and techniques of clear enunciation, pronunciation, proper emphasis and inflection, and becomes an artist in the effective use of a pleasing voice and appropriate gestures. A smart basketball player knows how to change his tactics to meet the style of different opposing players. The skilled actor knows how to exchange his own personality for the one he must portray.

The success of the basketball team rests upon the clockwork precision of its plays, the even temperament and skill of its players, and a determination to win the game. A successful drama rests upon precision in technical and mechanical detail, the poise and sincerity of its players, and the faithfulness of its characters and plot to reality. In the basketball contest teams match speed and cleverness at a game of skill. In the dramatic contest, play casts match talent and ingenuity in the re-creation of interesting "slices of life." Both the championship basketball team and the championship play cast understand that their successes are due to the best efforts of each of their members, regardless of position or role, and both are well drilled in the code of good sportsmanship.

The athletic program seeks to develop lasting interest in the recreational activities of the sport world, and an enduring knowledge and practice of the rules of health and of good physical condition. The dramatic program seeks to develop an abiding appreciation and understanding of the human problems in life, and, perhaps, to develop something of that profound insight into human affairs which prompted Shakespeare to write:

All the world's a stage
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances
And one man in his time plays many parts.

The parallel might be continued still further, but it is plain that dramatics

would not suffer by the comparison. It is only to be regretted that these splendid dramatic activities are not shared by all high school pupils. Drama is a means by which we learn vividly, experience richly, and express beautifully. Let us hope that an increasing appreciation of dramatic expression and an eagerness and opportunity for participation in it becomes a heritage of all.

DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES IN LIFE

Ethel A. Kaump

Madison East High School

During this celebration year, we are presented with a retrospective picture of the American secondary school and its development. Perhaps the most significant and recent changes have occurred in the including of matter formerly known as co-curricular in the fabric of the school curriculum. Psychologists and educators have variously defined educational values as the complete enlistment of all the faculties in the enjoyment of aesthetic effort, the creation of concrete ideals, and the rehearsing of later life activities. Certainly these and many other values find practical development in dramatic activity where gradual improvement in speech, bodily response, spiritual understanding, and social adjustment is apparent.

The one act plays presented by Oconto Falls, River Falls, and Columbus High School at the State Drama Tournament on March 29, demonstrated to us that the students of our high schools now look upon participating in plays as a creative undertaking of real artistic value.

Drama in our schools is being democratized. Those of us who work with school productions see that the school stage is a laboratory for English, history, science, manners, morals, and arts.

In Mohammed's writings we read "If a man have two loaves of bread, let him trade one for a narcissus. The bread is nourishment for the body, but the narcissus is nourishment for the soul." The fullness and beauty of education, the nourishment for the soul of the child, are found in the curricula of the arts: drama, music, and art.

POETRY FESTIVAL

Charles F. Gillen, Professor of French,
University of Wisconsin.

The reading of poetry in the high schools throughout the state received great encouragement on Friday, April 12, when thirty delegates from fifteen high schools met at the University to read poetry. The gathering was a memorable one. Professor Gertrude Johnson of the Department of Speech was the moving spirit of the affair. Professor Johnson divided the group into two sections, fifteen boys and fifteen girls. Each participant read the same four poems. There were three judges for each group. These judges chose five from each group who were privileged to read at a gathering of all the students which followed the luncheon. At the luncheon the guest speaker was Mrs. Louise Ayers Garnett of Evanston. Mrs. Garnett, who is one of our best known poets, spoke on the cultivation of a love for poetry, and read selections from a forthcoming volume of poems. Mrs. Garnett's poems are of such worth and her reading is so beautiful that the students felt themselves greatly privileged to hear her.

In the afternoon the ten students selected read before a large audience in the Memorial Union Great Hall. A copy of *Wilkinson's Contemporary Poetry* was given to each of these readers.

It was the aim of this gathering to eliminate the competitive spirit. Its object was to encourage the love of poetry in the high schools of the State. The quality of the poems read was good; the readers showed great artistic restraint in their reading. All of the poetry used was from the pen of Witter Bynner whose interest in the writing and reading of poetry in high schools and colleges has been an outstanding contribution during the past years. All in all this meeting was a very memorable one, and one of great educational value from the social as well as from the literary point of view.

STATE DEBATE AND DRAMATIC CONTESTS

Debate. Again at the State Capitol the sectional winners in debate presented an especially strong program. Stoughton won the championship; Eau Claire, state champion of 1934, second place; and Clintonville, state champion of 1932 and 1933, third place. Seventy-five attended the breakfast conference which proved both entertaining and worth while. In this issue you will find a report of Professor Merriman's address. Superintendent Callahan, in his most timely remarks, stressed the value of forensic activities as training for living.

Dramatics. By vote of the contesting schools, the dramatic contest was scheduled in Madison as a part of the Dramatic Festival of the Wisconsin Dramatic Guild. Oconto Falls, presenting "Undercurrent," ranked first; River Falls, with "Ile," ranked second; and Columbus, with "The Weak Spot," ranked third. The casts were guests of the Association at the very appropriate luncheon program of the Dramatic Guild. The value of dramatics and the excellence of the production were emphasized in the presentation address by Professor Kenneth Little of the Education Department of the University Extension Division, and in the critic's discussion the following morning by Miss Ethel Kaump of the Madison East High School.

NEWS ITEMS

May Forensic Programs at the State Capitol, Agricultural Hall, and the Memorial Union, Thursday-Saturday, May 2-4. Program on page one. An unusual opportunity to see the Legislature in session Friday morning. All are cordially invited. Special railroad and hotel rates. The contestants will be guests of the Association for lodging and breakfast. Blanks should be returned very promptly.

Hotel Rates. Special arrangements have been made with the management of the Park Hotel for rooms with bath at \$1 per person per night when two or more persons occupy the same room; without bath at 75c per person. There are many large rooms with private baths which will accommodate five or six people. Make reservations with Mr. W. R. McNeil, Manager, Park Hotel. Be sure to indicate when registering that you are a member of the Association. This is necessary to take advantage of special rates.

Railroad Rates. Reduced rate round trip rail tickets are on sale daily now, as low as 1.8c per mile. Consult your local ticket agent for round trip fare.

Coaches as Judges. The coaches will act as judges at the state contests, in accordance with the recently adopted amendment to the constitution.

Membership. The membership, exceeding that of last year by fifteen, has reached 394, the largest membership in the history of the Association. Any other schools desiring the selections and News Letters may still register and begin planning for next year.

Certificate of Merit. There seems to be some misunderstanding in regard to the award of the Certificate of Merit. This Certificate is awarded only to those students who participated in an inter-school program of the W. H. S. F. A. A list of students with event must be sent to the secretary. The certificates will be forwarded to the high school principal before May 1 to those who have sent lists to the secretary.